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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/005,133	12/05/2001	Mark Ledebner	VPI/00-126 US	8058

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EXAMINER

TRUONG, TAMTHOM NGO

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1624

DATE MAILED: 06/24/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Applicati n N .

10/005,133

Applicant(s)

LEDEBOER ET AL.

Examiner

Tamthom N. Truong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 7-16 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-6 (in part), drawn to compounds of formula I wherein Q is pyrimidinyl (or A is N), classified in class 544, subclasses 330, 331, 333.
 - II. Claims 1-6 (in part), drawn to compounds of formula I wherein Q is pyridinyl (or A is -CH), classified in class 546, subclasses 264, 275.4.
 - III. Claims 7-16, drawn to methods of treatment using compounds of formula I, classified in class 514, subclasses 275, 341. Further restriction and election of species will be required if this group is elected.

The inventions of groups I and II differ from each other because each group is drawn to a ring system that is distinct and patentable over each other. Essentially, these are two independent inventions as compounds of one group can be utilized alone, and not in combination of those in the other group. Note, with a variable core as such, the common property is not enough to keep two groups in the same Markush claim. Furthermore, a prior art that renders obvious one invention would not do so to the other. Thus, restriction for examination purpose as indicated is proper. However, should applicant traverse on the ground that the two groups are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the two groups to be obvious variant or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the invention unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

Inventions of Group I and II vs. the invention of Group III are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the claimed methods of treatment can be practiced with other commercially available drugs.

2. During a telephone conversation with Karoline Shair on 5-14-03 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-6 (in part).

Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 7-16 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

3. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

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4. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The following reasons apply:

a. In claim 1, the definition of R includes “aliphatic group” which is used by the claim to also mean ‘cyclic hydrocarbons’. Said group appears to even read on aromatic ring since it includes unsaturated cyclic hydrocarbons. The accepted meaning for an “aliphatic group” is “straight or branched chain arrangement.” Thus, the term “aliphatic group” is indefinite because the specification does not clearly redefine the term.

Where applicant acts as his or her own lexicographer to specifically define a term of a claim contrary to its ordinary meaning, the written description must clearly redefine the claim term and set forth the uncommon definition so as to put one reasonably skilled in the art on notice that the applicant intended to so redefine that claim term. *Process Control Corp. v. HydReclaim Corp.*, 190 F.3d 1350, 1357, 52 USPQ2d 1029, 1033 (Fed. Cir. 1999).

b. Claims 2 and 3 lack antecedent basis for reciting “-CH₂(substituted heterocyclyl)”, and “substituted heterocyclyl”, which are not recited for the definition of R² in claim 1.

c. Claim 4 lacks antecedent basis for reciting “benzyloxymethyl”, which is not recited in claim 3. Note, in claim 3, the group “-CH₂OR” does not cover for “benzyloxymethyl” because R is an “aliphatic group”.


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- d. Claims 4 and 5 lack antecedent basis for reciting the limitation of "wherein each of R^1 - R^3 is optionally substituted", which is not recited in claim 3 (or ultimately claim 1).
- e. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite in that it fails to point out what is included or excluded by the claim language. That is, it is not certain which compounds of Table 1 are intended. This claim is an omnibus type claim.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tamthom N. Truong whose telephone number is 703-305-4485. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30-5:00) & every Saturday morning (starting from 4-7-03).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mukund Shah can be reached on 703-308-4716. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-4556 for regular communications and 703-308-4556 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1235.


Tamthom N. Truong
Examiner
Art Unit 1624

June 23, 2003